

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 RANGOO 02253 010940Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 NSC-05 DIWY-01  
EB-08 COME-00 HEW-04 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 AGRE-00 /075 W  
-----027394 011154Z /46  
R 010734Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3907

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 2253

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SPOP, BM  
SUBJ: POPULATION INFORMATION

REF: (A) STATE 167895, (B) 76 RANGOON A-012, (C) STATE 301427,  
(D) STATE 297241

1. SUMMARY: THIS CABLE PROVIDES THE REQUESTED DEMOGRAPHIC  
INFORMATION. BURMA HAS NO POPULATION PROGRAM, AND NON-  
POPULATION PROGRAMS HAVE ONLY AN INDIRECT AND VERY UNINTENDED  
EFFECT ON POPULATION GROWTH. MOST OF THE TOPICS ARE DISCUSSED  
IN GREATER DETAIL IN REFERENCE B, AND MOST OF THE INFORMATION  
PRESENTED IN THAT AIRGRAM REMAINS VALID.

### DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

2. 1976 POPULATION (EST.): 30,834,000  
CRUDE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION (EST.)  
1975: 31.5  
1976: 29.0

CRUDE DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION (EST.)  
1975: 10.5  
1976: 10.6

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 RANGOO 02253 010940Z

(COMMENT: THESE FIGURES ARE OFFICIAL GUB ESTIMATES,  
BUT, AS WITH OTHER STATISTICAL DATA IN BURMA, THEIR  
ACCURACY IS OPEN TO QUESTION.)

POPULATION PROGRAMS

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO BASIC CHANGE IN BURMA'S POPULATION PROGRAM FROM THAT STATED IN REFERENCE B, I.E. BURMA HAS NO POPULATION PROGRAM AND PAST POLICIES HAVE BEEN AIMED MORE AT ENCOURAGING POPULATION GROWTH THAN CONTAINING IT. WHEN QUERIED ON THE MATTER, GUB OFFICIALS FROM ALL MINISTRIES CONCERNED CONTINUE TO STATE ONLY THAT A FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM IS UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT NO FINAL POLICY DECISION IS LIKELY TO BE REACHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THIS HAS BEEN THE STANDARD GUB REPLY FOR SEVERAL YEARS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GUB HAS TAKEN A FEW MODEST STEPS TOWARD SUCH A PROGRAM IN THE PAST YEAR. THE MOST NOTABLE ACTION IN THIS CONNECTION WAS WHEN THE GUB SENT TWO HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIALS, THE ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, TO AN EAST-WEST CENTER SEMINAR ON POPULATION HELD IN HAWAII IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR. THIS MARKED BURMA'S FIRST PARTICIPATION IN THIS TYPE OF CONFERENCE. NONETHELESS, AS NOTED IN REFERENCE B, THE GUB REMAINS SUSPICIOUS OF POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY IF THESE PROGRAMS ARE BEING URGED ON IT BY AN EXTERNAL SOURCE, AND THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF REFERENCE B REMAINS VERY VALID.

#### NON-POPULATION PROGRAMS

4. AS FOR NON-POPULATION PROGRAMS AFFECTING POPULATION GROWTH: BURMA DOES HAVE HEALTH PROGRAMS AIMED AT REDUCING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

#### LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 RANGOO 02253 010940Z

INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY; PERHAPS THE GUB'S MOST SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL PROGRAM HAS BEEN THE PROMOTION OF WIDER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITS CITIZENS; EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME, LAND AND SOCIAL SERVICES WHILE NOT FULLY ACHIEVED IS BASIC TO THE IDEOLOGY OF BURMA'S SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT; AND THE BURMESE CONSTITUTION GRANTS FULL EQUALITY TO WOMEN AND FORMALLY RECOGNIZES THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (THIS RECOGNITION PERHAPS REMAINS MORE A LEGALITY THAN AN APPLIED PRACTICE). HOWEVER, THE EFFECT, IF ANY, THAT THESE NON-POPULATION PROGRAMS HAVE ON POPULATION GROWTH IS PURELY BY ACCIDENT RATHER THAN DESIGN. GUB OFFICIALS ARE COMPELLED TO DENY THERE IS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE PROGRAMS AND POPULATION GROWTH, AND CERTAINLY NO STUDIES REGARDING THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCED FERTILITY HAVE EVER BEEN CONDUCTED IN BURMA. WE CAN ONLY SURMISE THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF THESE PROGRAMS BURMA'S POPULATION GROWTH MIGHT BE GREATER THAN THE PRESENT ESTIMATE OF 2.2 PERCENT PER YEAR.

5. REFERENCE B DISCUSSED THE EFFECT OF POPULATION GROWTH ON THE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT. IT PRESENTED THE RATHER GLOOMY OUTLOOK THAT IF RICE PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO GROW

AT ITS HISTORICAL PACE AND POPULATION CONTINUES TO  
EXPAND AT ITS PRESENT RATE, BURMA WILL BECOME A NET  
FOOD IMPORTER BY THE 1980'S. RECENT GOOD HARVESTS  
AND A GUB EFFORT, ALBEIT COSTLY, TO EXPAND ACREAGE  
AND INCREASE YIELDS SEEM TO ASSURE THAT THE COUNTRY  
WILL CONTINUE TO BE A NET EXPORTER OF FOOD PRODUCTS  
AT LEAST THROUGH 1985. GIVEN BURMA'S POTENTIAL FOR  
FOOD PRODUCTION, THE COUNTRY COULD, UNDER AN ENLIGHTENED,  
WELL-MANAGED AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM, AVOID BECOMING A NET  
IMPORTER OF FOODSTUFFS AT LEAST FOR THE REST OF THIS  
CENTURY. WHILE WE REMAIN SKEPTICAL THAT THIS REGIME  
COULD SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROGRAM, WE ARE  
OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERING A LONG-RUN POTENTIAL THAT GOES  
BEYOND THE EXPECTED LIFE-TIME OF PRESENT LEADERS.  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 RANGOO 02253 010940Z

THIS POTENTIAL TO INCREASE FOOD OUTPUT MAY BE A CON-  
TRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE GUB'S PRESENT LACK OF CONCERN  
ABOUT PROPULATION GROWTH.

6. THIS RESPONSE HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE COUNTRY TEAM.  
BARTLEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POPULATION, DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977RANGOO02253  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770274-0889  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** RANGOON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197708110/aaaadptt.tel  
**Line Count:** 142  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4f112250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 167895, 76 RANGOON A-12, 77 STATE 301427, 77 STATE 297241  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1433413  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POPULATION INFORMATION  
**TAGS:** SPOP, BM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4f112250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009